(figures in '000 tonnes)

Period	Allocation	Supply	Materialization
April-June, 2007	1179.12	1193.47	101.21%
July, 2007	393.04	353.80	90.02%
April-July, 2007	1572.15	1547.27	98.41%

(c) and (d) Coal is a natural resource and occurs in some States only. It is prudent that this resource is shared by consumers in all the States. Thus, coal is equitably allocated to consumers located anywhere in the Indian Union, on the basis of priority, through the mechanism of an Inter-Ministerial Committee called the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term).

Extension of broadband coverage to schools

1219. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed an Inter-Ministerial Group comprising of various Ministries such as Health, Home, Human Resource Development, Panchayati Raj and IT to discuss for planning the rollout of broadband infrastructure and indicate their requirement in rural areas with support ftom the Universal Services Obligation Fund;

(b) whether Government have set up a target of adding 6.5 million broadband subscribers in 2007, of which 4.5 million are expected to be provided by BSNL; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to extend broadband coverage to all secondary and higher secondary schools by 2007 and public healthcare centres by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Broadband Policy envisages a target of 9 million broadband connections by 2007. BSNL is expected to contribute for this in a significant manner.

(c) Government has planned to provide broadband connectivity to all secondary and higher secondary schools and public healthcare centers progressively by 2008.

Closure of post offices

1220. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices have been closed in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of employees who have been affected; and

(d) the reasons for such closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A few post offices have been closed in some Circles/States.

(b) Circle/State-wise break up of post offices closed is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) All the regular and Gramin Dak Sewak (GDS) employees who were working in these post offices, on closure, have been redeployed to other needy offices and no employee has been affected.

(d) Closure of post offices is resorted to in unavoidable circumstances, e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of buildings and availability of post offices in close proximity.

Statement

State/circle-wise details of post offices closed from 1.4.2002

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Post Offices closed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil
5.	Delhi	13 (closed/merged)
6.	Gujarat	1
7.	Haryana	14 (closed/relocated)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
10.	Jharkhand	Nil
11.	Karnataka	3
12.	Kerala	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8
14.	Maharashtra	10
15.	North East	7

1	2	3
16.	Orissa	15 (closed/merged)
17.	Punjab	17
18.	Rajasthan	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1
21.	Uttarakhand	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil
	TOTAL:	100

Broadband services in the country

1221. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set a target of 9 million Broadband connections by 2007 and 20 million by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of development in this field keeping in view the present growth rate; and

(d) if not, the steps which are being taken to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Broadband Policy, 2004 envisaged 9 million Broadband connections by 2007 and 20 million Broadband connections by 2010 through various technologies like Optical Fibre Technologies, Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL) on Copper Loop, Satellite Media, Terrestrial Wireless, Cable TV Network and Future technologies.

As on 30th June 2007, about 2.5 million Broadband connections have been provided in more than 1,000 towns. In order to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country, various steps being taken, *inter-alia*, are:

(i) Both outdoor and indoor usage of low power Wi-fi and Wireless Broadband systems in 2.4 GHz-2.4835 GHz band, and use of low power indoor systems in 5.15-5.35 GHz & 5.725-5.875 GHz have been de-licensed.